



San Juan Regional Community Energy Board
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2011; 3:00 p.m.
Placerville Firehouse
Call-in Option: 218-936-7979, access code 394137

Attendees: Kim Wheels, Elaine Fisher, Kris Holstrom, Ken Haynes, Deanna Drew, Karen Guglielmo, Keith Meinert, Joani Matranga, Lynn Padgett, Jen Coates, Todd Brown, Brad Zavorski, Kurt Johnson, Bob Risch.

1) Advisory Board members – Activity Update (5 min)

Telluride – Solar PV wastewater system connects today; after wwtp PV system is on line, Telluride will target two projects in 2011: discharge monitoring on Cornett Creek to get real time data on flows for feasibility study, and a study on the potential for turbines for the water and wwtp systems with feasibility to be done in time for budgeting in 2012.

The City of Ouray reported 60% below energy consumption from previous year attributable to LED lighting.

The SMPA Board approved an Advanced Metering Structure Plan (AMS), in the next two years SMPA will switch out to smart meters. During the holiday peak this year, the Telluride region went 2 MW over from previous year (Karen G. reported that population was down this year for the holiday). There were no power outages in Telluride over the holiday, but SMPA did have an outage in Naturita.

Deanna Drew will be evaluating energy consumption in Mountain Village. MV is beginning to collect and analyze data, most recently results on micro-hydro feasibility study. The water department appears to be the largest consumer. It appears there may be some low-hanging fruit for the Town in energy conservation.

Joani Matranga of the GEO congratulated the WSJCEB on the progress of the action plan. The GEO has used stimulus funds to advance the GEO Renewable Energy Development Team (REDT), which is exploring projects in each renewable technology area and looking for applications of distributed local generation projects, and how they might be built. Projects will be assessed from feasibility to presentation of final project scope. This is a competitive process, with evaluation of barriers, documentation of lessons learned, etc. with projects going through an intake process that includes a pipeline evaluation structured in 3 phases. The REDT is considering streamline opportunities for the FERC permitting process to decrease the time and expense of FERC process. The REDT is proposing an intake of 20 public and private pilot projects, with FERC having 90 days to respond on project. Projects for existing infrastructure, existing diversions (no increase in diversion), less than 5 MW will be considered. The intake process will open by next week with a soft process (open for a while, not a 30 day deadline like the fast track), and an additional process will open subsequent to this initial pilot. GEO is also considering land use discussions for renewable energy (eg: 1041 processes). The GEO has a new Director, TJ Deora. In the Interim, Angie Fife is serving as GEO Director.

Before the stimulus package, the GEO was funded largely by sources now allocated to balance the state budget. The SEP grant project with SM County is to evaluate energy savings with public entities and schools. Main Street business grant was awarded to TNCC for rural businesses. USDA has grants available for rural businesses after Main Street audits completed. Additional rebates are forthcoming, GEO working with existing partners (SMPA has continued their agreement with GEO). Appliances,



furnaces, etc. rebates available through March or April (stimulus funds should be out door asap), solar funds carry over into February as well.

2) TNCC Program Update (5 min)

- a) **EcoAction Program – Participant training launch Friday, January 14. Ouray County residents can participate in program. Efforts are being made to include in outreach.**

Mentors from SM and Ouray County are welcome to participate. Kim working on outreach to get Ouray County representatives signed up and could use references now. Participants can be residents or businesses and they need to be signed up within 3-6 months from now. Mentor training is this Thursday, and participant Training is Friday at the library in Telluride.

- b) **CEC Mtg update – Thurs 1/6 phone call & schedule for year**

The first 2011 meeting for CECs is on Jan 6th. Kim distributed schedule to the Board. CECs meet every other month (6 per year). Optional webinars offered in off-months.

3) GEO Update (15 min)

- a) **Sustainable Communities Program – by University of Colorado Denver’s Center for Sustainable Infrastructure Systems, CML and the Wal-Mart Foundation:**

Kim received a call this week indicating the grant opportunity for this GHG assessment in both Ouray and SM Counties is likely to be awarded. There was some concern that communities were committed and would contribute the \$6k, \$1k per entity from each county. The project would be comprehensive for both counties.

Kim presented updated data for SM and Ouray Counties for gas and electric use data.

Ouray County transportation estimates are based on data from the San Miguel County GHG emissions study, so is estimated. The data do not include airport transportation data, but do include the on-the-ground transportation to and from the airport. Governments in total are less than 10% of the total for the region. The largest challenges to decrease energy consumption are in the residential sector. All data are converted to BTUs. This new data presents electricity totals for residential and commercial separately and not collectively (which is represented in the STRATEGY document). With the new data the Mountain Village commercial energy use increased by 2% and Telluride decreases 1%.

Kim will confirm with SMPA that the data are available for public review and report back to the Board.

At the next meeting, the Board may consider opportunities for the data, including representation of per capita use for each sector/jurisdiction.

Elaine suggested the State Demographer may have information that would be helpful in interpreting this data.

It was suggested that a small group of members of the WSJCEB evaluate the data and present the information in the draft STRATEGY. Kim expressed concern over delaying the publication of the STRATEGY.

There was discussion of the data that will be forthcoming in the regional CU Denver Study. Todd Brown referenced the distributed Routt County GHG assessment from CU Denver, and pointed



out that we now have energy consumption data, but not GHG emission data, which will be forthcoming.

Brad Zaporski reported that the sustainability inventory for San Miguel County was completed in 2006 with data for transportation. In addition, a GHG study was completed in 2007, and we should be paying attention to the data we have and what results from the study. Kim reported the CU Denver GHG Assessment will provide data on waste, food purchasing, water use, and provide cost analysis and payback on potential actions to be taken, and as such the CU Study will provide additional information that we do not have today.

Joani reported that CU has been retaining protocols for measuring GHG across the state, and is establishing baselines. CU may be able to provide baseline data that may be updated into the future. There was discussion among the Board on the frequency of tracking the data, which is generally every 3-5 years as opposed to annually, and there was general concern about the labor requirements for annual updates.

Joani Matranga reported that Holy Cross issued a summary of the impact of growth on energy use that may be helpful to the Board.

Bob Risch reported that a report from CU Denver that is specific to Ouray / Ouray County would be optimal for consideration in Ouray.

The Board discussed the energy consumption associated with transportation and if there are good solutions or process to be considered. Elaine Fisher reported that there are transportation discussions in the region that are looking at this difficult issue. Joani Matranga reported the City of Aspen may be a good resource and Jim Chevalier in Chaffee County is working with the state on connectivity of communities, economic bases, livability, etc. The GEO is looking for resource of land use / transportation combined, and CDOT is exploring these opportunities for transit and efficiency. The GEO is also looking at alternative fuel solutions, which is progressing slowly, including discussion of CNG as a fuel source.

i) Grant application submitted

ii) Routt County report provides \$\$ per activity & tourist impact on energy use

b) Water / Wastewater EE – Ridgway & Ouray – update

Ridgway applied for and was awarded \$10,000 through CDPHE/ CWRPDA Grant to complete water utility audit; exploring options of collaborating with the City of Ouray to complete water and wastewater utility audits (split \$10k between jurisdictions and seek other source for additional \$10k to fund wastewater audits – seek single contractor for economy of scale on 4 audits), and also desirability of signing up with the EPA Pilot Program and using EPA Benchmark program.

EPA pilot program – innovative information, different types of wwtp, focus on rural areas, see what incentives are needed, address certain problems to look for technology fix to help, financial resources, workshops could have webinar option.

c) GEO MSEI Program – Contract received. Intro webinar – Thurs, Jan 13

Main Street Energy Efficiency Program

Ophir pursued a grant with the GEO but the matching of 1:1 was not feasible for the Town.

4) STRATEGY

a) SMPA additional data update (10 min)

Distributed by Kim to the Board via email, please note these data are not yet public.

b) SMPA rebate/other \$\$ update email from Brad (5 min)

Distributed via email

c) Discussion about comparison chart between natural gas and electricity. Should we have an action item related to promoting natural gas for direct energy use? (10 min)

This presentation was distributed to the Board via email.

Joani Matranga reported that the census has some data by county revealing how people are heating their homes.

Keith expressed the focus of the Board is to reduce energy use and explore renewable energy, and there is concern about promoting one industry over the other.

Bob Risch expressed similar thoughts.

Brad Zaporski reported natural gas is a fossil fuel that cannot be offset with renewables.

Kurt Johnson disagreed, expressing efficiency to burn at the source.

Ken Haynes expressed that the information is readily available.

Joani Matranga reported that gas is considered a transition fuel at this time.

Todd Brown expressed a need for the Board to look at the big picture, which will likely consist of integrated and varied methodologies to address energy consumption.

Joani Matranga stated that on the western slope the focus has been on economic development, creating jobs, saving money, etc.

The Board discussed what type and kind of data should be presented or offered, focusing on various technologies and options.

d) Water / Energy Nexus – Watergy Webinar recap (5 min)

Kim participated in this webinar and will distribute the information to the group, which emphasis how water and energy use is linked.

e) STRATEGY document – Review of process & our status - set schedule (30 min)

Kim distributed copies of the final draft STRATEGY to the Board, which is to be presented and distributed throughout the region. This is a working document.

i) Stakeholder input

(1) Status of: Request for time on SMPA Board meeting agenda

(2) Email contact lists needed from Board members

ii) Government discussion update – Ridgway, Ouray, others?



Kim presented STRATEGY and plan to Ouray County.

Please submit potential stakeholders to Kim for distribution and their review.

Ridgway has presented the plan and data during existing Council and Commission meetings, in addition to staff-level meetings.

iii) Public meetings and other outreach methods – make plans

The Board discussed the structure and forum of the outreach meetings, with the Board determining what needs to come out of the forums. There was discussion of having regional meetings in each county vs. at each jurisdiction.

Kurt Johnson suggested including the Eco Audit program into the STRATEGY, and community specific actions incorporated into the STRATEGY.

Joani Matranga indicated the document is comprehensive and there will need to be priorities.

Bob Risch reported that Ouray will likely focus on specific objectives for Ouray and then public hearings will be focused around those goals specific to Ouray.

Kurt expressed a need to specify what will be completed in 2011.

Joani Matranga indicated energy literacy education in communities is important.

Lynn Padgett expressed a need to clearly identify the problem in Ouray County, and identify the per capita data by jurisdiction for comparison.

Kim will put a presentation together for the jurisdictions to review and seed input on the draft STRATEGY and Action Plan.

Elaine Fisher expressed that the most effective approach in San Miguel County has been for the governments to work together on goals, as opposed to independent actions.

Kim reported that Bill Behan of Ridgway and Will Clapsadl of Ouray County have been selected as Energy Action Coordinators (EACs). The first meeting of EACs should happen by March.

5) SMPA's net metering program (Brad – 5 min)

6) REC's 102. (Kurt - 5 min)

7) Green Gondola Campaign – TNCC / Bob Delves - explanation of program structure (5 min)

8) Schedule Next Meetings – WSJCEB & when to start EAC's (10 min)

Board meetings to be every 3 weeks continued through Feb 1st (Ridgway) and Feb 22nd (Placerville) to finish the STRATEGY and then the Board meetings will be monthly, scheduled the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the alternating locations.